and the Central Coordination Committee is being constituted. Necessary steps have also been initiated to formulate the important schemes.

(c) No such instance has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(d) The implementation of the Act is a continuous process and the requisite actions have already been started in right earnest.

India losing $400 million to Russia under debt repayment scheme

1061. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India losing $400 million to Russia under debt repayment scheme" as reported in the Statement dated 23rd September, 1996;

(b) if so, whether Government are losing millions of dollars in hard currency yearly due to reported misuse by Russian importers;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the corrective measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BULLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Inter-Governmental arrangements between India and Russia in 1993, the rupee debt owed by India to Russia is to be used exclusively for India's exports of goods and services to Russia. Some allegations of diversion of exports consignments to third country destinations through production of fake landing certificates, switching of cargoes on high seas, etc., have come to light. These would constitute violations of the Inter-Governmental arrangements agreed between India and Russia in 1993 and of the relevant customs procedures and adversely affect our exports to hard currency markets.

(d) Government takes a serious view of such irregularities and are committed to check any illegal diversion of export consignments meant for Russia under the debt repayment route to third countries. Apart from greater vigilance by the Governments enforcement agencies, such diversion is proposed to be prevented through the following additional measures under consideration:—

(i) Exports through consignment sales by way of customs bonded warehouses in Russia.

(ii) Conclusion of a bilateral Customs Cooperation Agreement with the Government of Russia to facilitate better monitoring of export consignments by Customs authorities of the two countires.

(iii) Insistence upon the Russian side to provide satisfactory proof of landing for export consignments.

Decline in export of Indian wheat

1062. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian wheat has been washed out of the international market, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the export quota of wheat has been reduced;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and details of quota now fixed;

(d) the direction of trade for wheat; and

(e) Indian's position, price-wise vis-a-vis other competitors in wheat exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No Sir, A total quantity of 1078653 MTs of wheat valued at Rs. 668.99 Crores has been exported during the period April-Septgmber, 1996. (Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta).

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the lesser production/ procurement of wheat during 1996-97, the export ceiling of wheat for the current year has been fixed at 10 lakh MTs of non-durum wheat and 5 lakh MTs of durum wheat.

(d) Country-wise details of exports are available in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.